(d) whether any efforts have been made so far to have better coordination among army, para-military forces, intelligence agencies and State police for curbing terrorism in North-East States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Much of the Militancy in the North East has degenerated into a cottage industry of killings, extortions and kidnappings with the sole aim of making money, and is largely bereft of any ideology. The militant groups in the North East, in pursuance of their aforesaid objective do occcasionally form opportunistic alliances.

Pak ISI has also been actively involved in fomenting trouble in the North East. Government, monitors the developments and reviews the situation from time to time.

(c) Steps taken by the Government to combat militancy in the North East include, *interalia*, deployment of Central Para military Forces and Army; improved coordination and sharing of intelligence between the security forces; modernisation/upgradation of State Police forces; reimbursement of security related expenditure; sanction of Special Central Assistance to the State Governments; declaration of the most seriously affected areas as "disturbed areas" and notification of the major insurgent groups as "unlawful associations". The situation is also kept under watch and is reviewed from time to time for taking appropriate action.

Government is also committed to restoration of peace and has extended an invitation to all those who have strayed from the paths of togetherness to come forward for talks within the four corners of our Constitution.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Special Task Force to Deal with Naxalites

2186. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have so far created any Special Integrated Security Force or Task Force Group to effectively deal with Naxalites and other militant and secessionist outfits operating in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to carry out any comprehensive study into the genesis and causes of such militancy in different parts of the country;

(d) if so, by when;

(e) what are the terms of reference of such study; and

(f) what concrete steps Government have taken so far to prevent mass killings in the country by Naxalites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Ministry of Home Affairs has set up a Coordination Centre, headed by Union Home Secretary with Chief secretaries and Directors General of Police of the States affected by left wing extremism, as its members, to review the steps taken by the States to check the left wing extremist activities, monitor the plan of action in respect of each State and to make recommendations, both on development and security aspects of the problem. The Coordination Centre has had several meetings in this regard.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Home Affairs had set up a Working Group on Left Wing Extremism, consisting of representatives of concerned Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India and State Government, to suggest long and short term strategies, and action plans, for responding to the problem in the affected States. The report of the Working Group was forwarded to the concerned States requesting them to ensure better socio-economic development of the affected areas and also to introduce such steps as to combat the problem on the basis of a cohesive plan of action in diverse areas such as redressal of public grievances, adequate road linkages for better accessibility, thrust on employment generation programmes, strengthening of the Panchayat Raj System, adequate land reforms restoration of tribal lands, removal of rural indebtedness, tailoring of development programmes to local requirments etc.

(f) Government has been regularly sensitizing all the State Governments and concerned agencies regarding the activities of extremists. Intelligence is shared on continuous basis and support is provided by way of financial assistance for Modernisation of State Police and deployment of Central Para Military Forces.

"Public Order" and "Police" are State subjects and hence it is for the concerned States to take effective steps to curb the activities of extremists. Howerver, with a view to strengthening the State Police Forces, a special Scheme for reimbursement of security related expenditure incurred by the extremist affected States is being implemented by the Central Government.